**Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2019 UN Environment Assembly**

**"Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production"**

**Canada's comments and suggestions for the President's consideration**

**Vision:** To develop partnerships towards sustainable and innovative societies and build upon the theme of pollution with focusing on innovative solutions to key environmental challenges, building on outcomes from previous sessions of the Environment Assembly.

The political message from the Ministers will be informed by the 6th Global Environment Outlook report on key environmental challenges as well as the report of the International Resource Panel on the global status of resource efficiency.

**Main priority 1:** Ensure the transparency, accountability and comparability of global environmental data and develop science-policy-business partnerships on innovative data technologies and digital solutions.

- Identify and define relevant global metrics for sustainable consumption and production.
- Establish comprehensive environmental monitoring systems (including citizen observations and satellite monitoring) to improve data collection and foster cross-border environmental monitoring data exchange, (for example in the form of pilot projects on establishing global real-time air quality and deforestation monitoring systems).
- Ensure everyone has a fair and where possible electronic access to environmental data and develop secure and accessible monitoring databases.
- Develop digital solutions to gain better knowledge on global resource use and productivity, including introducing global product information factsheets in order to make informed decisions.
- Engage regions, countries and municipalities and all stakeholders to collect and analyze environmental data, and develop technologies and apps and advance scientific discoveries through citizen science.
- Enhance integrated use and analysis of environmental data from various sources (smart devices, mobile applications, environmental monitoring and research).
- Develop global environmental data policy and common data standards.

**Main priority 2:** Foster sustainable and efficient resource management by promoting decarbonisation, detoxification and decoupling of resource use, to enhance ecosystem resilience and protection of the planet's natural systems.

- Accelerate the transition towards circular, climate resilient economies and the application of life-cycle approaches for sustainable materials management, in a manner that fosters economic growth, improves competitiveness, creates jobs and safeguards environmental and health protection and social benefits.
- Foster innovative governance mechanisms that integrate circular economy principles and frameworks into national policies.

**Commented [C1]:** Canada finds it important for the vision to include a reference to **SDGs** (thinking in particular of SDG12 on Responsible Consumption and Production)

**Commented [C2]:** Beyond transparency and comparability, there is a need to define metrics (noting ongoing efforts under SDG12)

**Commented [C3]:** It would be important to refer to non-government actors here as well, e.g. private sector, citizens, academia, traditional indigenous knowledge…

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**Commented [C4]:** We suggest the term "accelerating" rather than promoting to make the statement more forceful.

**Commented [C5]:** While we do not have specific language suggestions at this point, we suggest that consideration be given to avoiding technical terms like "circular" or "decoupling" which may not be readily understandable by citizens.

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**Commented [C6]:** Environmental and health protection has to be kept in check (in other words: even a circular economy can have negative environmental impacts)

- Fully implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production.

- Maximize the benefits of sound waste management with the special focus on food, excess nutrients, plastics and marine litter.

- Promote sustainable land management, including through ecosystem restoration, to maintain soil health, ensure food security and combat desertification.

- Introduce global product sustainability criteria or promote product standards to stimulate the market for secondary raw materials and sustainable products.

- Accelerate and activate sustainable and innovative financing opportunities and ensure transparent funding of eco-innovative solutions.

- Develop a global approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, to protect the environment and human health against harmful chemicals and waste.

- Commit to the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity of living in harmony with nature by accelerating the implementation of the Aichi Targets and any post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including through resource mobilization.

- Foster synergies between resource efficiency action and climate change adaptation and mitigation, including reductions of greenhouse gases and short-lived climate pollutants.

**Main priority 3:** Support robust engagement of civil society, citizens including indigenous communities, private sector and academia in promoting innovative approaches for meeting global environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.

- Allocate adequate resources to research and development to drive innovation for the environment.
- Ensure access to basic and environmental education worldwide and promote sustainable lifestyles through a wider uptake of innovative approaches in education.
- Identify and promote the wider application of indigenous traditional environmental knowledge.
- Support the creation of new, innovative business opportunities to eradicate poverty, improve communities' well being, and establish infrastructure for new greener economy.
- Engage citizens in improving their local environment, green infrastructure and nature based solutions.
- Promote and raise awareness for sustainable tourism.